

Wran attacks New Right

By JOE POPRZECZNY

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THE former NSW premier, Mr Wran, returned to the spotlight last night when he bitterly attacked the New Right and the Liberal Party treasurer and chief of Elders IXL, Mr John Elliott.

"I have a message for Mr Elliott and his ilk," Mr Wran said.

"Whether they call themselves New Right or just plain die-hard old reactionaries, most Australians have had a gutful of people making their millions in Australia, taking it overseas to make more millions and then telling the rest of the world what a bunch of bludgers the Australians are."

He said the New Right was not just un-Australian but anti-Australian.

Mr Wran launched the broadside while at the University of Western Australia, where he was delivering the

John Curtin Memorial Lecture.

"I certainly don't underestimate the difficulty for a Labor government in asking the nation's work-force to take a cut in real wages, where there have never been so many overnight millionaires — most of them apparently in Perth," he said.

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"I, for one, can't be surprised if appeals to patriotism meet a certain cynicism, when the hard-nosed men of business who made billions out of Australia — people like the Liberal Party treasurer, Mr John Elliott — tell the world that Australia is the last place in which to invest.

"And Brian Burke is absolutely correct in exposing these people for what they are

— not just un-Australian, but anti-Australian.

"The real harm done by the so-called New Right is to divert public attention from the real problems and to distort perceptions of their real causes, nature and cure."

Mr Wran also criticised the Liberal and National parties for failing to prepare Australia for changes in international markets.

"Liberal-National Country Party governments — 30 out of the last 35 years — presided over the ossification of our manufacturing sector.

"Yet in all those years, manufactures and services were the fastest-growing areas in world trade, and those countries with an export-oriented manufacturing sector grew fastest and prospered most. Australia was falling behind."